THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, April 13, 1807.

CRUELTY *of* SPANIARDS *towards the* ENGLISH.

THE following facts are related by one of the seamen who was unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of those barbarians, and which will ever reflect eternal disgrace on the Spanish name:

On the 6th of July we sailed in the brig Success, Captain Brum, of New York, from Kingstown, Jamaica, for New York; and on the 13th she was captured, two leagues from Cape St. Anthony, by a Spanish galley, belonging to the Havannah, and without a deck, with two masts, and two square sails, and called La Bonne Union. The galley was commanded by Captain Cæsar, and manned with forty Spaniards and Frenchmen. Three days after we were taken, Captain Brum, the passengers, eight in number, and the hands, were all ordered below, and the hatches shut upon them, and so kept all night. In the morning the pirates prepared their knives, cutlasses, and clubs, opened the forecastle, and called for the captain; but one of the seamen (Peter Dachemin), with the view of preserving the captain's life, stepped forward, and ascended to the deck. The ruffians, with their instruments, arranged in two ranks, compelled every seaman to run the gauntlet, while each gave him a blow, a gash, or a stab, as he passed; Captain Brum and his passengers and crew were all in succession taken from the hold, and treated with the same horrid cruelty, excepting five French passengers. An English gentleman, named Smith, who was one of the passengers, was beaten with such severity, that he sprung into the long-boat to escape, and broke his ankle in two places. The mate of the brig, two English passengers, and two seamen, were put in irons on board the galley, and three days afterwards were sent ashore at Conyalouts, 180 miles from the

Havannah; and the brig with the captain, and remainder of the crew, were sent to Campeachy.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 269.)

WE have observed, that his lordship's time had been much taken up in business, and that he had resided little at the family mansion, since his accession to the title and estate; but in this title, he was no stranger to the character of Truman, nor to the acknowledged beauty and accomplishments of his charming daughter; indeed both had been pourtrayed in such glowing colours, that he almost suspected the pencil of flattery had put the finishing touches to the family picture; for the good old grocer had not been thrown into the back ground, but brought forward on the canvas in a very pleasing point of view.

The character of the worthy Robert had travelled for a vast extent of miles round that part of the country, and the earl had treasured up many amiable acts on record, he had heard told of him when a boy, and which had honoured him with his lordship's approbation; he revered and respected a good character, in whatever sphere of life the possessor moved. He considered titles and affluence as a mere chance in the lottery of life, and might as well fall to the lot of a scoundrel, as another man; but he knew and felt the superiority of birth in being born to a title, and living in the full possesion of distinguished rank, and that as much could be expected, much should be done, and by squaring his actions by the principles of moral rectitude, and the commands of the divine preceptor, hoped to attain the exalted summit of human excellence, and by supporting the dignity of MAN, throw a more conspicuous and dazzling radiance on the dignity of the *peer*.

His lordship, as we have observed, highly respected the character of old Truman; many persons of great respectability living in, and near the town in which he resided, he was generally spoken of under the appellation of the honest grocer; and the late arrival of his son in such flourishing circumstances, had been often the theme of conversation, and the son spoken of as a man, not only of strict probity and honour, but of unaffected, easy manners, and gentlemanly address; and with regard to his wealth, some extolled it as immense; with others

again

again that point was doubtful, and he was only considered by *them* in *easy* circumstances, as he affected no parade, and that his expenditures appeared confined to the limits of a private gentleman, never outvieing his neighbours in splendour, or assuming the consequence of rank: but all agreed that he had a large estate in the West Indies, though none could ascertain the proceeds, and that he had also made some good purchases in England.

As his lordship never took the altitude of a man's perfections by his riches, he confined himself to the good qualities of the mind and heart, and those of Truman's had been represented in so favourable a point of view, that he had wished to see and judge for himself; therefore this casual introduction was reciprocally pleasing, and both were equally charmed with the good sense and good breeding of the other, and each secretly determined to improve the unexpected meeting into intimacy and friendship, formed on the solid basis of reciprocal esteem.

The young lady being now seated between them, came in for her share of the conversation, which became general. The misfortune of Mrs. Dowlas, and the dilemma the major part of the company had been thrown into by a little mistake, provoked something of the risible; his lordship declaring, with great good humour, that a plain, dusty coat, and a pair of boots, had their use more ways than one, by giving a lesson of humility, that would humble his pride, as it was pretty evident, that without the aid of dress, a lord might not always be taken for a *gentleman*.

Truman giving some account of the day's sport, his lordship observed, it was not merely the races had led him to ———, it was more a matter of business which he had appointed to transact with a gentleman in the town early next morning; not that he had an objection to the sport, merely as a spectator, but nothing more; being so unfashionable, as not to keep any horses to run, nor could ever be tempted to make a *bet* in his life, really not being a competent judge of these matters, and did not chuse to be *jockied*.

"Your lordship then," replied Truman, "never games?"

"I sometimes play, Sir, but never gamble; the ladies, when in want of a fourth, will now and then force me to take a seat at a whist, or quadrille table, and as I just play well enough to lose my money, exactly hit their taste, particularly the dowagers, who never fail to compliment me on my skill, which be assured I never exert, but when complaisance to them demands the sacrifice."

Finding our heroine and her father intended to be on the course the next day, he expressed a desire of joining them, and as his lordship had arrived in an open landau, it was agreed to take a view from that vehicle, in preference to the chariot.

At this moment Truman's carriage, which had been ordered at an early hour, was announced, and as his lordship would have been alone at an inn, with all the open heartedness of the West Indian, waving all ceremony, in a truly friendly way, invited the earl to their family repast, which was politely and cordially accepted, and they returned together; his lordship leaving directions for his servants to retire, saying he should walk back, and needed no further attendance that night.

After supper, the lady retiring, the new found friends were left to their bottle and politics. Truman found his lordship was by no means satisfied with some popular measures, and had given a dissenting voice. He found him most loyally attached to the throne, to the constitution, and the true interests of the people; all of which, he conceived it his duty as a citizen, and doubly his duty as a peer, to support. Adverting to the liberty of the press, Truman drank—May the door of FREEDOM ever stand open, and never be shackled with a bar!

His lordship, with great warmth, emphatically replied in the language of Hastings, when Gloster alludes to new moulding the state,

" Curse on th' innovating hand that 'tempts it."

" Yes, Mr. Truman, I see, I feel we coalesce in sentiment; and the liberty of the press, I consider a national blessing of the first magnitude, a grand feature in our constitutional rights, and that political system which guards our privileges, privileges only Englishmen enjoy, and which will ever support the independence of a free, happy, and I will add, enlightened people. It gives us a right of seeing, judging, illustrating, and even investigating facts, from the purest streams of political information. It is the grand national reservoir of intelligence, and though like other streams, might at times overflow its banks, and muddle in the current, yet the fountain is clear, and we can explore it to the bottom. I do not altogether allude to the public prints in daily circulation; they, from an increase in number, instead of enlarging and improving the channel of information, only counteract the current, turn the stream of intelligence out of its due course, and, like the skilful mariner, we must frequently tack, and put the ship about, to fetch up a lee-way, before we can anchor in the harbour of truth."

" Your lordship's observation is just. Formerly indeed the public papers had some credit, and were found useful vehicles for conveying such information as mankind might receive a reciprocal advantage by; but when I see them teem with illiberal abuse, or undeserved panegyric, I consider such effusions equally a disgrace to the writer, the press, and the publisher. To applaud virtue, and reprobate vice, I conceive a duty due to the public from the conductor of a public print; I mean

in

in matters of general concern, and that without fee or reward, which is the case. But when the subject turns to an individual, whether to gratify spleen, inflame the fever of vanity, or blow the last blast of popularity, such publications a judicious observer can place but in one point of view—merely this—that as all this press-groaning business must be liberally, if not extravagantly *paid* for, the printer enriches his coffers at the expence of truth, affronts common sense, disgraces himself and his paper, and lowers the consequence of the press."

After engaging in conversation for some time longer, the earl, cordially taking leave, returned to the inn.

(To be continued.)

INTERESTING TRIAL.

SURREY SPRING ASSIZES.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

DREW *v.* SMITH, ESQ.

THIS was an action brought by the plaintiff, a tradesman, residing at Richmond, against the defendant, for an assault and false imprisonment; to which the defendant had pleaded, first, that the plaintiff had committed the first assault; and secondly, a justification: inasmuch as that plaintiff, being a serjeant in a volunteer corps, had refused to obey the defendant's orders as colonel of such corps, and had conducted himself in an unsoldier-like and impudent manner to defendant, his commanding officer.

Mr. Serjeant Best, in a most eloquent address to the court, stated the case, which he represented of the last importance, not only to the whole of the volunteers of the united kingdom, but to the public in general. Some time since, the corps had received orders to attend a general muster before Lord Onslow, the commanding officer of the district; and the defendant having expressed a desire to see a full muster, the plaintiff, although only two days recovered from a fit of sickness, attended. During the course of the evolutions, the plaintiff received the thanks of the colonel for his prompt performance and attention to his duty; it happened, however, towards the close of the day, that, from over exertion, the plaintiff felt himself considerably exhausted, and that in wheeling his company into line, he became so faint and overcome by fatigue, as to be unable to keep up with the company he commanded, upon which the colonel desired him to "step out." The plaintiff declared he could not, and that he was ill; upon which the defendant said,

"Then

"Then you had better go home" Plaintiff replied, "If that is your pleasure, I will." This gave the colonel (who, it was stated, was of an irritable disposition) great displeasure; and going up to Serjeant Drew, he informed him he did not choose to be replied to in such impertinent language, and that he would put him under arrest. The colonel then desired the plaintiff to deliver his halbert and sword; the plaintiff said, "There is my halbert, take it, that belongs to the king; but as the sword is my own property, you shall not have it, unless you take it by force;" upon which the colonel seized the plaintiff, and in attempting to wrest his sword a scuffle ensued, in the course of which the colonel retreated a short distance from the plaintiff, and exclaiming that he would cut him down, if he further resisted, drew his sabre, and struck him two violent blows with the flat side. One of these, according to the counsel's statement, was aimed directly at the plaintiff's head, which, but for the fortunate interposition of the plaintiff's arm, might have deprived the plaintiff of his life, and subjected the defendant to a charge of murder. After this, the defendant got behind the plaintiff, and cutting the sword belt in two, secured it. The plaintiff was then marched by a file of men to the parade of the corps, and told by defendant, if he did not apologise for his ill conduct, he would confine him in the black hole for that night. The plaintiff, sinking with fatigue and illness, and under the influence of the threat, consented to make an apology. His sword was placed on the ground, and the colonel told him he might take it up and depart. The plaintiff, as he took it up, exclaimed, "I thank you for what is my own." Upon which the colonel said, if he did not hold his tongue, he would stuff a pocket handkerchief down his throat; and as the plaintiff left the parade, the colonel said he was a vagabond, and a disgrace to the cloth he wore. The plaintiff reached his home, and was confined for several weeks.

Several privates in the corps proved the case.

Mr. Garrow, in a very able speech, enforced the propriety of a rigid discipline in the volunteer corps; and contended, that what the colonel had done, he was of necessity compelled to do. The plaintiff and defendant were at issue when the former refused to give up his sword, and that it was absolutely necessary, as an example to the whole corps, that the plaintiff should be made sensible of his improper conduct. He also insisted, that whether volunteers or regulars, it was necessary the commanding officer should compel obedience, without which the volunteer corps would rather be a burthen than a service to their country.

Several witnesses, principally officers in the corps, were then called, for the purpose of proving the first assault to have been committed by the plaintiff; but it appeared from the whole of

their statement, that the plaintiff had only resisted the colonel, by pushing his hand down when he attempted to take the plaintiff's sword.

The reply of Mr. Serjeant Best, in as animated a speech as we have ever heard, reprobated the conduct of the defendant in the strongest terms; which tended, he said, not only to subvert the volunteer system, but degraded the character of a British officer. If the spirit of an English subject, who volunteered his services for his king and country, and to defend those laws to which the plaintiff had that day appealed, was to be broken by such acts of tyranny and oppression, he was persuaded but few would be found to come forward in their defence; he hoped the jury would confirm that statement by their verdict.

Mr. Justice Heath, after recapitulating the evidence, remarked, that there seemed to be two parties in the regiment, one of the officers, and the other of the privates, which accounted, perhaps, for the slight variation of the evidence. It had been proved by all the witnesses, that the defendant had struck the plaintiff twice with his sword, and that he had been obliged to step back in order to draw his sword. The act of parliament has specifically stated the punishment commanding officers of volunteer corps were authorised to inflict, namely, to put the offending party into confinement during the time the regiment was under arms: the spirit of men was not to be broken by such degrading conduct as had been shewn to the plaintiff; and that no commanding officer, even in a regiment of regulars, was to be justified in the act of striking a private under arms. The laws of the army required the offender should be brought to a court-martial.

The defendant had threatened to send the plaintiff to the black hole for the night, unless he made an apology for his conduct; which he had no right to do, as he could only confine him during the time the corps was under arms. The plaintiff being ill, was induced to comply, and was then suffered to take his sword. His lordship added, that there were some men of the first rank and fortune serving as privates in volunteer corps, and if they were to receive such treatment and disgraceful epithets as had been applied to the plaintiff by the defendant, particularly such as, you are a *disgrace* to the cloth you wear, it would be the means of depressing, instead of exciting the zeal of individuals, and would ultimately destroy the volunteer system altogether. His lordship concluded by saying, the jury would take the whole case into their consideration, recollecting that volunteers were not to be treated as privates in the regular army, and give such reasonable damages as would be the means of correcting such conduct in future.

A verdict was given for the plaintiff—Damages, two hundred pounds.

FASHIONS *for* APRIL.

LADIES DRESSES.

A Capote a la Russe is composed of a mantle and head-dress in one, to cover the figure; it is made of sky-blue velvet or silk, cut with gores, and made to the size of the throat without any fulness. The cap is made with a full roll on the right side, and worn so as to expose the ear; it is trimmed with grey squirrel or tiger fur, fastened in the centre of the cap, continues round the whole of the mantle, and fastened carelessly on the right shoulder, with a coronet or diadem of pearls. A short dress, walking length, of white muslin; blue kid gloves; white silk shoes made high round the ankle.

Il Berretta alla Semiramide full dress cap, with drapery of plain white patent net, trimmed round with silver silk fringe, and a silver tiara in front. A plain white crape dress, over a white satin petticoat, richly embossed round the bottom with silver leaves; the train of the crape dress is tied in a careless knot on the right side, round which is entwined a wreath of silver roses. A French jacket of soft white satin, with a broad cape falling on the shoulders, also embossed with silver leaves to correspond with the remainder of the dress; Catalani sleeves of white satin and lace, in-let round the arm, down to the wrist; the jacket is made to fly open in front, to shew the front of the neck, which is confined in a silver net, made high, and worn over white satin; necklace, composed of brilliants or diamonds, with a diamond stud fastened in the centre of the bosom; ear-rings and bracelets of the same. White kid gloves; white satin shoes, bound with silver, and silver rosettes.

MORNING WALKING DRESS.

A manteline à la Castilliane; a short mantle of orange and purple velvet, made to fasten on the right shoulder, and, crossing the bosom, is confined with rich cords and tassels under the left arm, rounded gradually to the bottom of the right side, in a regular point; a body of the same, with sleeves and high full collar; the back and skirt are cut in one, with only one arm-hole; the whole trimmed entirely round with spotted leopard fur. A chapeau à la Diane of velvet; the right side of the crown, under the brim, is intermixed with white fur. A straw hat of this shape has an elegant effect. The hat is worn trimmed with a quilling of French net round the side of the face, and may be worn tied down with a silk handkerchief. A

train petticoat of clear India muslin, made full and quite plain, without any ornament of work whatever, is worn with this dress. White kid gloves, and shoes of the same colour as the mantle.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON LADIES' DRESSES.

Never were there fewer novelties in fashion than at this period; indeed it is difficult to select a something that has not been worn for some time past; although we are dazzled with the brilliancy of the objects we attempt to describe, it requires the greatest perspicuity and discernment, and much close observation, to select with judgment the many different costumes for our elegant belles. The most prevalent full-dresses for an evening, are those composed of white, pink, or orange crape, richly ornamented with gold or silver; these trains are worn over sarsnet or satin slips. The decorations for the head were never more simple and elegant than at present; tiaras of gold, silver, steel, or bugles, are graceful and becoming ornaments. Black or maroon laces, embroidered in gold or silver, are now so much in vogue, that scarce a fashionable lady appears in public without them: they are worn according to the taste of the wearer.

AN HALF FULL DRESS FOR GENTLEMEN,

Is composed of a light olive double-breasted coat, buttoned close up, with covered buttons of the same cloth as the coat; yellow striped toilenet waistcoat, light brown Angola pantaloons, and half boots. The hair cropped a la Titus.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON GENTLEMEN'S DRESSES.

Blue coats, with black velvet collars, are quite the rage. Velvet collars are now not only general on blue coats, but on olive and dark green coats, which are likewise becoming extremely prevalent; these are, however, the only colours on which the velvet collars are used for evening coats; the blue coat has, of course, a flat gilt button (of what is termed the standard colour, gold), but all other evening coats have covered buttons. The morning dress is fluctuating: scarlet waistcoats are on the increase; and, we doubt not, will obtain some preference during the present month. Coats, breeches, and pantaloons, seem to continue much the same; indeed the severity of the weather renders a great coat more and more necessary, which does away the opportunity of displaying any particular taste in the close coat. Olive brown great coats are still the most in favour, and the silk skirt-lining is generally adopted. Velvet collars and lappel facings do not, however, keep pace with the silk skirts, as every great coat sports that ornament,

which, we believe, arises principally from the velvet being soon deprived of its appearance after suffering a few showers of rain, and also as it so soon changes its colour.

ACCOUNT *of* SIR HOME POPHAM's TRIAL.

(Continued from Page 273.)

"INDEED, Sir, were not our naval and military commanders employed in foreign service, in distant quarters, allowed a latitude for the exercise of their discretion, what ill consequences would often arise to his majesty's service? To the members composing this honourable court, the majority of whom have already filled, and all of whom are likely to fill, high commands on distant stations, it is scarcely necessary to point out the combination and the variety of unexpected circumstances which may occur, and imperiously dictate the necessity of advantage being taken of the moment in promptly acting against an enemy, which circumstances may be such, that delay might lead only to discomfiture or disgrace; and that no time could be spared for consulting the superior authorities at home, or waiting for their orders.

"Had such extreme caution, such rigid regulations as seems to prompt the present accusation, been hitherto enforced, that daring spirit of enterprize, that prompt and decisive energy of action, which have raised the British name and character to so proud and enviable a summit of distinction, would not only have been checked, but in a great measure annihilated; and the annals of our history would not have been distinguished by so many gallant achievements, which, though undertaken without orders, have, in general, been eminently conducive to the interest and glory of the country,

"Numerous precedents exist which fully illustrate the truth of this position, some of which may probably occur to the recollection of the members of this court. Amongst others which present themselves to my memory at this moment, I shall beg leave to mention the coup-de-main which put the British crown in possession of Gibraltar. Sir George Rooke had no orders for undertaking that bold enterprize, nor was he arraigned by his superiors at home, for having exercised his discretion on that occasion: on the contrary, his majesty did every honour to his enterprizing mind.

"In the American war, in 17—, Sir Peter Parker, I believe, and General Dalling, the then naval and military commanders at Jamaica, concerted an expedition against the Spanish settlement of Omoa, which was to a certain degree successful. No

blame,

blame, I understand, was attached to either of those officers, for having directed this attack without orders.

"At the beginning of the late war, in 1793, Lord Hood entered Toulon, and afterwards attacked Corsica, without orders, and *I believe* against the opinion of the general, who would not co-operate with him. Yet that admiral was not brought before a court-martial for having so acted; or was it ever known that his conduct was censured.

"In 1796, Lord St. Vincent (then Sir John Jervis) sent the heroic Lord Nelson to attack Teneriffe, in consequence of information which he received, that two ships had loaded their treasure there. Every person is acquainted with the issue of that expedition, which lost to the country so many brave men, and which was most incontestably undertaken without orders from any superior authority. Yet it is certain that no public inquiry was ever instituted against Lord St. Vincent, although, if an opinion were to be formed from the event only, without considering the motives of the enterprize, there would perhaps appear sufficient ground on which an accusation might have been supported against that commander. But let the court particularly look at the letter recently published from that illustrious officer, Lord Nelson, to Sir Simon Tayler, of Jamaica, relative to his discretion in going from the Mediterranean to the West Indies.

"These precedents, Sir, will clearly prove the existence and toleration of that discretionary power on which I have acted. But I have yet to cite a case still more in point, since the officer whom I am going to mention, commanded on the very station which I am accused of having left unprotected, and who actually prepared to embark the troops on board his squadron, with which he was ready to sail from the Cape to the Rio de la Plata, in order to attack those identical settlements, which were the objects of my enterprize. The late Sir Hugh Christian had carried his intention so far as I have stated when an account reached him from India, stating the urgent necessity of sending the military reinforcements to our army in the Carnatic. That intelligence compelled him to dispatch the troops to India, and thus was the expedition to the east coast of South America at that time prevented.

"This last case, which I shall endeavour to prove by the testimony of Mr. M'Lean, then Admiral Christian's secretary, shews that that officer considered himself justified in using his discretion in the manner I have described; and although the expedition did not take place, it was not because that admiral had received no orders for undertaking it. The real cause of its having been relinquished was that which I have already stated.

" If, then, Admiral Christian, without any orders from home, or previous communication on the subject, thought proper to adopt the necessary measures for undertaking an expedition to the Rio de la Plata, during the period of his commanding the squadron at the Cape, how much more urgent, and how much more justifiable must have been the motives which induced me to engage in that enterprise who had previously been appointed to the ship I commanded, for the express purpose of proceeding in her to South America, and who had been confidentially apprized of the secret views and plans of the king's ministers respecting it long before I left England?

" But, though the intention of Admiral Christian to proceed to attack the Spanish settlements was well known to his majesty's government in England, yet I find, on inquiry, that the admiralty board of that day expressed no disapprobation of the measures he had pursued without their orders; whereas, I who succeeded in the same enterprise, executed from exactly the same point of departure, and what is still not a little singular, under the auspices of the same military commander, I mean Sir David Baird, am now arraigned for my success, even at the moment when ministers are following up the blow I struck with all the energy in their power, by employing all the forces they well can muster for that service.

" I have said, Sir, that when the admiralty learnt by my letter of the 9th of April, that I had sailed with the squadron under my orders for the Rio de le Plata, that board did not at first apparently disapprove of my conduct, and I think I am borne out in this conclusion by the tenor of Mr. Marsden's letter, acknowledging mine of the date last mentioned. The letter in question is dated August 6, and is conceived in the following terms:—

' Sir,

' I have received and communicated to my lords commissioners of the admiralty, your letter of the 9th of April last, informing them of your intended proceedings with the squadron under your orders.

' I am, &c,

' Wm. MARSDEN.'

" Now, Sir, on comparing the preceding letter with a letter from Mr. Marsden, dated the 1st of March, 1806, in answer to one from me, conveying a piece of intelligence, which I cannot but suppose must have been gratifying; the two letters will prove to be written exactly in the same style. The letter of the 1st of March is as follows:—

' Sir,

'SIR,

'I have received and laid before my lords commissioners of the admiralty, your letter of the 13th of January last, with the several papers therein referred to, relative to the capitulation of the town and castle of Good Hope.

'I am, Sir, your's, &c.

'WM. MARSDEN.'

"The conclusion which I think every unprejudiced man would draw from the perusal of these two letters is, that if the admiralty board did not judge proper to express to me any disapprobation, not merely of my own conduct, as commander of the naval force employed in the reduction of the Cape, but of that of the officers and seamen who contributed to this conquest, still the board could not well be displeased with it; and that by their secretary having left me also in the dark, or rather to my own conjectures, in his reply to my letter acquainting him of my having sailed with my squadron to the Rio de la Plata, it was equally presumable that the board did not then disapprove of my having proceeded on that expedition—that is, by the tone and character of the two letters, it appeared that they looked upon the capture of the Cape, and the arrangement for the squadron's sailing to Rio de la Plata, precisely in the same point of view, or that one was as likely to meet their approbation, or to prove advantageous to the country as the other.

"Here, Sir, I must for a moment advert to the instructions of the 2d of August, 1805, ordering me to send a frigate to cruize on the east coast of South America, between Rio de Janeiro and Rio de la Plata. From such an order, it is certainly possible to draw this inference, that I had no specific direction with relation to the attack of the enemy's settlements in the Rio de la Plata.

"But it is publicly known, and officially to some of the members of this court, that during the late war our cruizers were constantly either off the mouth of the river, or absolutely cruizing off Monte Video; and independent of every other consideration, I not only add the opinion of that respectable officer, Captain Rowley, who was on the Cape station last war, that the Rio de la Plata was considered as a part of that station; but it was also the unanimous opinion of every officer under my command.

"I have entered at some length on this subject, because an impression has been circulated with considerable industry, that I had no authority whatever to go to the Rio de la Plata, but it must be evident by the letter of the 2d of May, that the admiralty considered that river as an enemy's port which ought

to

to be constantly watched by some of the cruizers under the orders of the senior naval officer at the Cape, and consequently within the limits of his command. Nay, if it were possible that it could be contended, that because the order directed the sending a frigate, I had no right to carry there my whole squadron, I should answer, that the object of sending a frigate would be nugatory, unless it was allowed to act on the intelligence she might bring. For I would ask, whether, if a cruizer had brought an account that two of the enemy's line of battle ships had entered the river, totally dismasted, but that they were moored off Monte Video, and every exertion was making to get them refitted for sea, I should not have been justified in sending a force from the Cape to attack them, without a moment's loss of time.

"I have already, I trust, repelled that part of the charge which accuses me of having 'left the Cape not only exposed to attack and insult, but even without the means of affording protection to the trade of his majesty's subjects, or of taking possession of any ships of the enemy which might have put into any of the bays or harbours of the Cape or parts adjacent.'

"I have explained to the court, that the season, at the commencement of which I left the Cape, was adverse to the attack of an enemy on that settlement, which, as I before observed, was a reason assigned by Commodore Johnstone and General Medows, for not venturing on such a measure; and that, on that account also, no hostile operations were to be apprehended in that quarter at the time of my departure for the Rio de la Plata.

"I have shewn too, that I took the most active and effectual measures of precaution to afford protection to the trade of his majesty's subjects in every quarter, and that, even had I remained with my squadron in Simon's Bay, (for I could not have kept it in safety in Table Bay) there was little or no probability of my being able to take possession of any ships of the enemy, which might put in there, or into any of the bays or harbours of the Cape or parts adjacent.

(To be continued.)

DESCRIPTION *of* ALGECIRAS.

[From Semple's Journey through Spain, &c.]

ALGECIRAS, situated on the western side of the bay of Gibraltar, was at the commencement of the last century, a place of little importance, and consisted chiefly of fisher-

men's huts; but the capture and continued possession of Gibraltar by the English, renders a counterpoint in the bay necessary to Spain, and from that moment it has continued to increase. Its chief trade in time of peace is a contraband one with the English; but it flourishes mostly in war, from the great resort of gun-boats and privateers, which find here a commodious situation for observing and capturing enemy's vessels in the narrow entrance of the Mediterranean. It is built partly on a flat along the beach, and partly on the slope of small heights, which form the first elevation from the sea towards the mountains behind the town. These mountains appear in general to be about two thousand feet in height, extending in a north easterly direction from the borders of the straits, near Tariffa, towards the mountains of Granada, of which they probably form an appendage. They are considerably steep towards the bay, but still more so on the western side, where they present, as I have already observed, bare summits, apparently inaccessible, and vallies of great depth. From them flow several small streams, which fall into the bay of Gibraltar. The mouth of one of these streams, named El Miel, forms a creek, the banks on one side of which are steep, but flat on the other, and on this flat stands the lower part of Algeciras. In this part is the market-place, ornamented with a fountain, where the water brought by the aqueduct from the hills is discharged, and serves to supply the whole town and shipping; very little rain being collected in cisterns.

The general appearance of the town by no means belies the first impressions made on descending into it from the mountains, being poorly built, except a few houses belonging to the principal inhabitants; and even they are unworthy of notice, the residence of the governor being inferior in appearance to that of an ordinary gentleman's house in England. The streets, however, are not inconveniently narrow, and the houses being generally built of stone, however rough, have a better look than the mud-walled and straw-thatched houses so common in the western provinces. The inhabitants make great use of flat grey stones to roof their houses. This stone is found in quarries in a bay to the southward of the town, and separates naturally into large laminæ or plates, and is therefore well adapted for the purpose, not being apt to break nor to loosen and blow off in heavy winds like slates. The chief and indeed only ornament of the town is the tower of the new church in the upper square. It is merely a quadrangular tower of stone, from the top of which the signals made along the coast are answered and repeated. It is partly built out of the ruins of a very ancient tower which stood on the same spot; and it is somewhat singular that the old mortar had become as hard as stone, and has been worked in a similar manner, and employed

as such in the new building. The church, in its interior regulations partakes in a very faint degree of the magnificence of the churches in the principal towns of Spain; and shews from this material distinction the recent rise of Algeciras.

But whatever may be the general wretchedness of its appearance, Algeciras becomes of importance on two considerations, the one of a partial, the other of a general nature.

In 1801, an English squadron, under the command of Sir James Saumarez, attacked a fleet of French and Spanish ships anchored under the batteries, and were repulsed. An English line of battle ship, the Hannibal, of 74 guns, grounded, and having lost nearly half her crew, struck to the batteries. After being taken possession of by the Spaniards, the name was altered to the Algeciras. This event alone would seem to render it a place worthy of notice, and the first question which an Englishman eagerly enquires is, "To what battery did the Hannibal strike?" He is surprised to be shewn a kind of redoubt, close to the northward of the town, with a low parapet wall, furnished with six or eight heavy brass cannon, and towards the high road, surrounded principally by a thick hedge of aloes. A few more guns are disposed on the heights along shore; but about a half musket shot from the beach is a small rocky island, on which is built a fort of some strength, and this completes the defence of Algeciras towards the sea.

Three miles to the south is a fine bay, on one point of which stands a Martello signal tower, and a battery of five heavy cannon; but at too great a distance to be of any use in defending the town, being, indeed, merely calculated to protect the mouth of the bay; and even for that I was a witness of its being of little use.

Some ruins still remain of the old town, which was founded by Saracens or Moors, at the period of their first irruption into Europe, and stood a little to the southward of the present, on the opposite side of the creek. These ruins consist principally of the solid bases of square towers, at regular intervals, the slight remains of walls, and in places the form of the ditch. One old tower is entire, close upon the water, and is still used by the Spaniards. It marks the farthest extent of the Moorish fortifications to the south.

On POSTHUMOUS FAME.

By Mr. CUMBERLAND.

IF our resurrection-critics shall persist to rummage amongst the graves, and carry their eyes like the hare, who sees distinctly only what is behind her, they may probably spy out my

shade in the back ground, and bring it into notice. It is naturally to be presumed that, if they would come manfully forward for a living author, the living author would be better pleased; but this he must not expect; the temple of their praise is reared with dry bones and skulls, and 'till he is a skeleton he cannot be their hero; in this, however, they are more generous than the legislature, who have given him so short a date to the tenure of his copy-right, that, 'till that is out, the circulation of his works can scarce commence. Now although this mode of dealing may not exactly suit the living man's occasions, yet there is a kind of posthumous justice in it, as it leads him to expect a consideration for what he does some time or other, notwithstanding he shall have done it so much the worse for the discouragement which he met with whilst he was about it. It also warns him what he is to expect from the company he lives with, and apprises him of the luxury he is to enjoy, when he is out of their society.

An ANECDOTE.

THE following amusing anecdote is related of the duke de Nivernois, by Mr. Dutens, in his work entitled, "Memoirs of a Traveller, now in Retirement, written by himself."

It was the custom at Chanteloup, and practised in Paris, after conversation or promenade, to retire, for a few hours, each to his own apartment. This was what they then called *l'avant soir*. One, therefore, either passed the evening alone, or, when the company in one house happened to be numerous, in making separate visits. The duke de Choiseul used to go to his sister, and Abbe Barthelemy to the duchess of Choiseul.

The duke de Nivernois was intimately acquainted with the countess de Rochefort, and never omitted going to see her a single evening. As she was a widow, and he was a widower, one of his friends observed to him, that it would be more convenient for him to marry the lady. "I have often thought so," replied the duke, "but one thing prevents me: in that case, where could I pass my evenings?"

Answer, by T. Bullock, of St. Columb, to the Carpenter's Question, inserted November 24.

THERE are various methods given by Euclid, and others, by which questions of this nature are easily solved, and by which, in the present case, one of the parallelograms is found to be half a mile wide and 14 long, and the other 4 miles wide and 10 and half long.

Answer, by B. Belcher, Stonehouse, to J. Ryan's Charade, inserted January 19.

SEALING-WAX I've brought to light,
Which is your whole, if I judge right.

*** Similar answers have also been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; J. Whitnell, of Street; J. Tucker, of Tiverton; H. Ellis, H. Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; W. D. of Bristol; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Medland, of St. Budeaux; J. Woodman, of North Curry; H. Easter, and J. Lewis, of Poole; W. F. Dinock, of St. Budeaux; J. F. of Curry Rivell; and G. Arden, of South Petherton.

Answer, by H. Ellis, of Exeter, to Delia's Anagram, inserted January 26.

I Hope, dear Miss Delia! you'll not think me rude
If I should to a dance but invite you;
Nor take it amiss, if I were to intrude
A SEDAN, and my footman to light you.

† Similar answers have been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; G. P O. of Beer; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; R. Trewavas; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; Palemon, Flushing; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; J. Tucker, and J. Joyce, of Tiverton; J. Medland, of St. Budeaux; and H. Easter, and J. Lewis, of Poole.

Answer, by B. Belcher, of Stonehouse, to W. D. Champion's Charade, inserted the 26th of of January.

IN your lines you may behold,
ICELAND, a place that's very cold.

† We have received the like answers from J. Ryan, of East Stonehouse, near Plymouth; J. Whitnell, of Street J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; W. D. of Bristol; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Tucker, and J. Joyce, of Tiverton; J. C. Cooke, H. Ellis, H. Stoneman, and J. S. of Exeter; J. Lewis, and H. Easter, of Poole; M P. Moyle, of Marazion; R. Gidley, Dean Prior; T. Bullock, of St. Columb; J. Medland, of St. Budeaux; G. A. F. Arden, of South Petherton; R. Trewevas; W. H. H. of Totnes; J. Ninnis, of St. Agnes; J. Woodman, of North Curry; G. Spry, of Egg Buckland; Thomas Coumbe, of St. German's; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; and a serjeant of the Broadhembury volunteers.

An ANAGRAM, *by J. A. Dyer, of Taunton.*

A Well-known fish, ye gents. transpose,
Whose colour is a lovely red;
And then you'll certainly disclose,
On what I often lay my head.

A REBUS, *by T. Bullock, of St. Columb.*

A Fowl, when metamorphos'd right,
Will quickly bring my whole to sight;
And secondly, my next to find,
An ancient Hebrew call to mind:
The parts connected rightly shew,
All I desire, ye gents. of you.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A CHURCH-YARD PIECE.

AMONG these tombs, my worthy friend,
With meditation let us rove:
Let us eternal truths attend,
The truths proceeding from above!

Behold these tenements of clay
Which round in awful prospect rise!
Of death th' inevitable prey,
See man, at last, in ruin lies!

Behold the polish'd, sculptur'd stone,
The labour of the curious hand!
Behold, with grass quite overgrown,
An alien clime! a stranger land!

A land of undisturb'd repose;
A clime beneath a milder sky!
Here care and pain their weapons lose,
And with their wretched victims die!

Here titles vanish in the dust,
Here proud distinctions—all are vain!
For time, most faithful to his trust,
Returns them whence they came again.

What then is grandeur, what is art,
And all the trophies of renown,
If we with them so soon must part,
Nor claim a single wreath our own?

The village hind as softly rests
On his dark bed of mould'ring clay,
As those who shone in broidered vests,
And blaz'd in splendour for a day.

The monument, the mottoed bust,
The portico, the dome sublime,
Alike must moulder in the dust,
And own the pow'rful hand of time.

Then, O! my friend, be it our care,
The swift-wing'd moments to improve;
Celestial virtue speaks, "Beware
"How in life's slipp'ry path you move.

"All, all is vain beneath the sun,
"That centres not alone in me;
"By me the glorious prize is won,
"Thro' which th' Immortal soul is free.

"Tis I alone that charm the way
"Thro' the dark scenes where tempests roar;
"To the bright realms of endless day,
"Where storms and tempests vex no more."

Eternal

Eternal radiance of thy Sire!
O be our star! our glorious guide!
Our breasts with heav'nly ardour fire,
And be our guard on ev'ry side!

By thee protected, we shall fear
None of the pangs that vice attend;
Pangs that but lead to more severe—
To those that never have an end!

Trent. B. A.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

On a YOUNG LADY's BIRTH-DAY.

COME, sylphs and naiads, tune the lay,
And hail the op'ning morn;
Come, nymphs, and bless this joyous day,
On which my Ann was born.

Your brows bedeck with roseate leaves,
Around them garlands twine;
And all the flowers which Flora weaves,
In tresses gay combine.

Let songs of joy, from hill and vale,
Be wafted thro' the sky;
And, borne upon the swelling gale,
In distant murmurs die.

Ye streams, that roll thro' yonder shade,
Beside the woodbine bower;
In peaceful gurgles wash the glade,
And hail her natal hour.

Thou power, who reign'st above the skies,
In mercy hear my prayer;
And let it, with sweet incense, rise
To thy almighty ear.

May ev'ry grace adorn her breast,
And wisdom fill her mind!
May she, with ev'ry virtue blest,
A heavenly refuge find!

Then when the tyrant death shall come,
And life's last pulse shall cease;
Her soul will leave its earthly home,
And soar to realms of peace.

There seraphs with their golden lyres,
Her soul with songs of praise
Will hail; they'll strike the warbling wires,
And heavenly pæans raise.

Loud hallelujahs then will sound,
Throughout Heaven's blest abode;
And angels to its utmost bound,
Will praise th' immortal God.

Bristol. WILLIAM.